



National Park Service
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Independence National
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Independence National Historical Park

June 18, 2007

For Immediate Release

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How Independence Hall Became a World Heritage Site

Independence National Historical Park is proud to announce the online publication of *Independence Hall: International Symbol of Freedom*, the latest online lesson plan to be added to the Teaching with Historic Places program of the National Park Service. This original and engaging lesson is the first within this series that focuses on the World Heritage List: what the List is, why it exists, and how a particular site becomes a World Heritage Site. The lesson plan is available through the park website, www.nps.gov/inde, and the Teaching with Historic Places website, www.cr.nps.gov/nrtwbp.

Independence Hall in Philadelphia can be considered the birthplace of the United States, for here the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, the Articles of Confederation uniting the thirteen colonies were ratified in 1781, and the Constitution setting out the nation's basic laws was adopted in 1787. This plan will explore its global significance to the common heritage of humanity as an international symbol of the radical documents originating there that have influenced the constitutions of many democratic nations throughout the world. This lesson will also explore the concept of "world heritage" with a focus on why certain cultural and natural sites are so important they transcend national boundaries and become the patrimony of all humankind.

In this lesson, students will determine why Philadelphia became the meeting place for the Second Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention and examine the results of these gatherings; explain the major principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and consider the global impact of both documents; describe the significance of Independence Hall and examine the process by which it became a World Heritage Site; and conduct research on local government buildings.

This lesson can be used for classes in American history, social studies, government, civics, and geography in units on colonial America, the early National Period, American political history, or the global influence of American democratic political ideals. The lesson plans satisfies U.S. history standards for Grades 5-12, Era 3: Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1820s).

Independence Hall is located within Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The park is open daily with the exception of Christmas day. A visit to Independence National Historical Park should start at the Independence Visitor Center, located at 6th and Market Streets. Here, visitors can pick up a park brochure, park map, and free timed

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tickets for guided tours of Independence Hall. For more information visit the park's website, www.nps.gov/inde.

The National Park Service in the United States has created an award winning series of classroom ready **Teaching with Historic Places** lesson plans available to teachers and students worldwide on the National Park Service web site at www.cr.nps.gov/mr/twhp/. Teaching with Historic Places (TWHP) uses properties listed in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places to enliven history, social studies, geography, civics, and other subjects. Over the years TWHP has developed a variety of products and services. These include a series of lesson plans; guidance on using places to teach; information encouraging educators, historians, preservationists, site interpreters, and others to work together effectively; and professional development publications and training courses. The Independence Hall lesson plan will be the 132nd lesson online through TWHP.

The World Heritage List includes 830 properties forming part of the cultural and natural heritage of our world that are considered to have outstanding universal value. These include 644 cultural, 162 natural and 24 mixed properties in 138 countries. The World Heritage Committee operates under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

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